

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A computer peripheral device comprising:
- 10 circuitry to perform a computer peripheral function;
- Universal Serial Bus (USB) cable that provides a connection to a computer; and
- 10 USB/IR (infrared) transceiver operably coupled to the USB cable, wherein at least one of the circuitry and the USB/IR transceiver is actively coupled to the computer via the USB cable.
- 15 2. The computer peripheral device of claim 1, wherein the circuitry further comprises being implemented to perform at least one of: a mouse function, a keyboard function, a portable printer function, a microphone function, hand scanner function, and a video camera function.
- 20 3. The computer peripheral device of claim 1 further comprises switching circuitry that is operable to switch between the circuitry and the USB/IR transceiver based on a selection input, wherein the switching circuitry actively couples either the circuitry or the USB/IR transceiver to the computer.
- 25 4. The computer peripheral device of claim 1 further comprises a USB hub operably coupled to the circuitry, the USB cable, and the USB/IR transceiver, wherein the USB hub enables both the circuitry and the USB/IR transceiver to be actively coupled to the computer.
- 30 5. The computer peripheral device of claim 4 further comprises at least one USB port operably coupled to the USB hub.

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Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099
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7. A computer peripheral device comprising:

circuitry to perform a computer peripheral function;

5 a cable that provides a connection to a computer; and

infrared transceiver operably coupled to the cable, wherein at least one of the circuitry and the infrared transceiver is actively coupled to the computer via the cable.

10 8. The computer peripheral device of claim 7, wherein the circuitry further comprises being implemented to perform at least one of: a mouse function, a keyboard function, a portable printer function, a microphone function, hand scanner function, and a video camera function.

15 9. The computer peripheral device of claim 7 further comprises switching circuitry that is operable to switch between the circuitry and the infrared transceiver based on a selection input, wherein the switching circuitry actively couples either the circuitry or the infrared transceiver to the computer.

20 10. The computer peripheral device of claim 7, wherein the cable further comprises a pair of cables, wherein one of the pair of cables is coupled to the circuitry and another of the pair of cables is coupled to the infrared transceiver.